MINUTES

OF THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE NORTH RIVER

UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED AT

UNION CHURCH,

FAYETTE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

From 12th to 15th of September,

1845.

TUSKALOOSA:
PRINTED BY M. D. J. SLADE.
1845.

MINUTES.

Friday, September 12. 1845.

1. The Anniversary Sermon was delivered according to previous appointment, by Elder DAVID W. ANDREWS from the 5th chap. of the Epistle General of Peter, and from the 1st to the 6th verse, inclusive.

2. After a short intermission, the Delegates assembled in the Meeting-house; singing and prayer by the Moderator.

3. The Letters from the several Churches were then read, and the Delegates names enrolled.

4. Then proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk. Brother Isaac Shepherd, teller, reported Elder DAVID W. ANDREWS, Moderator, and Elder THOMAS M. GABBERT, Clerk.

5. Opened a door for the reception of Churches—when, came forward and were received, by Letter and Delegates, the following Churches, viz: Shady Grove, Marion county; Hepsebeth, Fayette county; Pleasant Grove, Walker county; and New Prospect and Bethel, Monroe caunty, Mississippi; in token of which, the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship.

6. Appointed the following committees. 1st. On Arrangement.—brethren Willis Richards, Abner Files, sr., John Yerby, Jacob Black, and Isaac Shepherd, with the Moderator and Clerk. 2d. To arrange Preaching.—Brethren George Trawick, John Savage, John Yerby, Willis Richards, and Isaac Shepherd. 3d. On Finance.—Brethren John Savage and John Ray.

7. Appointed brother Isaac Shepherd, Treasurer of this Association.

8. Adjourned until 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Singing, and prayer by Elder Thomas M. Gabbert.

Saturday, Sept. 13, 1845.

9. Met pursuant to adjournment. Singing, and prayer by the Moderator.

10. Called for the report of the committee of arrangement; which was received, and the committee discharged.

11. Called the names of the Delegates, and marked absentees.

12. Read the Rules of Decorum.

13. Appointed a committee of Elders B. B. Smith, Tilmon Howel, and brother John Yerby, with the Moderator and Clerk, to revise, alter and amend our Constitution, and to report this evening.

14. The Circular Letter was called for, and there was none prepared. The Association then agreed to dispense with the writing and printing of Circulars for the present.

15. Appointed a committee, composed of Elder Tilmon Howel and brother Willis Richards, with the Moderator, to lay off this Association into Districts; also, to appoint District Meetings; and to report this evening.

16. Whereas, the Churches of this Association have unanimously adopted the Confession of Faith proposed by our last Association. *Resolved*, that we have the above named Confession of Faith affixed to our Minutes.

17. Appointed Elder Tilmon Howel to preach a Missionary Sermon on Sabbath of our next Association, and Elder David W. Andrews his alternate; also, to take up a public collection for the purpose of domestimc issions.

18. Adjourned until this evening; singing, and prayer by Elder T. Howel.

19. Met pursuant to adjournment; singing, and prayer by Elder J. Eindley.

20. Called for the report of the committee on revising, altering, and amending our Constitution; which report was received, and the committee discharged.

21. *Resolved*, That the Preamble of our Constitution read thus:

We, the United Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ, are desirous of a reciprocal Union. We therefore propose to maintain the order and rules of an Association, according to the following plan. (See Constitution.)

22. Called for the report of the committee on districting the Association; which report was received, and the committee discharged.

23. *First District.*—To be composed of churches, Bethlehem, Salem, Liberty, Columbia and Macedonia. The meeting to be held with Salem Church; to commence on Friday before the Fourth Sabbath in October, 1846; Elder Jesse Walden to preach the Introductory Sermon.

24. *Second District*—To be composed of churches, Hepsebeth, New-Hope, Pleasant Grove. Mount Joy, and Ebenezer. The meeting to be held with Pleasant Grove Church: to commence on Friday before the Second Sabbath in September, 1846; Elder David W. Andrews to preach the Introductory Sermon.

25. *Third District*—To be composed of churches, Enon, Shepherd, Union, Mount Pleasant, and Pilgrim's Rest. The Association to be held with Shepherd Church; to commence on Friday before the Fourth Sabbath in September, 1846; Elder B. B. Smith to preach the Anniversary Sermon, and Elder Tilmon Howel his alternate.

26. *Fourth District*—To be composed of churches, New Prospect, Bethel, Shady Grove, and Zion. The meeting to be held with New Prospect Church; to commence on Friday before the Second Sabbath in October, 1846; Elder Tilmon Howel to preach the Introductory Sermon.

27. After singing, and prayer by Elder B. B. Smith, adjourned until Monday morning 8 o'clock.

SABBATH.

Elder B. B. Smith, who was appointed by our last Association to preach a Missionary Sermon, delivered an appropriate Discourse, from the Acts of the Apostles, 16th chapter, 9th and 10th verses. After which, took up the sum of $16 by public collection; also, $134 by public pledge.

Monday, September 15.

28. Met pursuant to adjournment; singing, and prayer by the Moderator.

29. Called the names of the Delegates.

30. *Resolved*, That this Association appoint an Executive Committee, composed of brethren Anderson Markham, Samuel Appling, James A. Jones, Willis Richards, Alson Catledge, Richard Files, John Yerby, B. B. Smith, Isaac Shepherd, James T. Collins, William P. Earnest, Robert Mounts, Vinyard Lawson, John A. Saunders, John Howel, John D. Marcus, John H. Ray, George West, and E. G. Terrell, for the purpose of keeping in operation the Domestic Mission.

31. The Treasurer made his report, which is as follows: For printing Minutes, $20 75; for Associational puaposes, $11 85.

32. *Resolved*, That this Associatiou have 550 copies of these Minutes printed, and that the brother Clerk superintend the printing of the same.

33. *Resolved*, That the following brethren be appointed Distributing Agents. First District, John Yerby. Second District, James A. Jones. Third District, Tilmon Howel. Fourth District, John H. Ray.

34. Adjourned until 12 o'clock to-day—singing, and prayer by Moderator.

35. Met pursuant to adjournment; singing, and prayer by Elder J. Walden.

36. The Executive committee, after due deliberation and consultation, employed Elder David W. Andrews to ride as our Home Missionary, nine

months during the year 1846, for which service we agree to give him the sum of $200, commencing the first of January next.

37. *Resolved*, That this Association give the brother Clerk ten dollars for his services.

38. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the several Districts composing this Association, the propriety of their appointing some suitable place in each District, as near the centre as convenient, for the purpose of there building an Encampment.

39. *Resolved*, That the grateful feelings of this body be expressed to the brethren and friends of Union Church and its vicinity, for their kindness and hospitality to the Delegates and visiters.

Closed with singing, and prayer and benediction by the Moderator.

DAVID W. ANDREWS, *Moderator.*

THOMAS M. GABBERT, *Clerk.*

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

	Churches&counties	Ct M.....	MINISTERS & DELEGATES Ordained Ministers' names *italic.* Licensed Ministers with ‖ Absentees with *	Baptised.....	Rec. by Letter	Secession.....	Restored.....	Dismissed.....	Excluded.....	Dead, ...	Total in Fel.	Contributions for Minutes	Contributions for Associa'n
First District Second Dist Third Dist 14th District	Bethlehem, Tusk'a	1	L. Lee, *A. Files jr T. M. Gabbert*	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	32	1 00	45
	Salem, do	3	1 Cannon, W Richards, R Hendrix	0	2	1	3	8	3	1	107	2 00	65
	Liberty, do	4	J Deason* J. Garner, John Yerby	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	24	1 50	50
	Columbia, do	1	J Howel, A. Ramsey. J. D Colbert	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	17	1 00	25
	Macedonia, do	4	L. Sherley, E. Hardy,* J. Sanders	0	4	7	0	0	3	0	36	1 00	1 00
	Hepsebeth, Fayette		w. Hamner, A Lawrence‖ S Baker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12		
	New Hope, Walker	3	R. Mounce, J. Files.* A. J. Files,	21	5	2	0	25	3	0	32	1 00	50
	Pleasant Grove do		J Stags, V Lawson,* W Rutledge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	50	50
	Mt. Joy, Fayette	2	A Files sr W P Earnest, L Harbin‖*	1	3	0	0	2	1	0	26	1 00	1 15
	Ebenezer, Walker	4	Not represented.										
	Enon, Tuskaloosa,	3	J D Marques, *T Howel* J G Marques*	1	4	1	0	0	4	0	18	50	50
	Shepherd, Fayette	2	I. Shepherd, E. Ward, J. Savage,	5	4	1	0	2	2	0	97	3 00	1 00
	Union, do	1	*B B Smith*, J Black. G Trawick‖	6	1	1	0	21	2	1	79	2 00	2 00
	Mt. Pleasant, do	3	H. Smith, J Lindley,‖ J T Collins	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	32	75	50
	Pilgrim's Rest, do	4	*D W Andrews, J Walden*, G Hartin	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	47	1 50	50
	New Pros. Monroe	M	John Hazel, Geo West* Wm West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1 00	50
	Bethel, do		J. H. Ray, John Pickel, I. Black,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	1 00	37
	Shady Grove Marion		E G Terrel, J. Neel* D C Morrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1 00	1 00
	Zion, do	4	A Markham, J Adkins, T M'Gowin	6	4	4	1	16	4	1	42	1 00	50
				50	36	18	5	79	23	3	676	20:76	1187

BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH.

1st *Of the Scriptures.*—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2d. *Of the true God.*—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3d. *Of the Fall of Man.*—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4th. *Of the Way of Salvation.*—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made attonement for our sins by his death; being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in Heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

5th. *Of Justification.*—That the great Gospel blessings, which Christ of his fulness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eteral life, on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6th. *Of the Freeness of Salvation*—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith: and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

7th. *Of Grace in Regeneration.*—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit; so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

8. *Of God's Purpose of Grace.*—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end: that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God; and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel: it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost dilligence.

9th. *Of the Perseverance of Saints.*—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10th. *Harmony of the Law and Gospel.*—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.

11th. *Of a Gospel Church.*—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the

gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12th. *Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour; with its purifying power; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the Church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ: preceded always by solemn self-examination.

13th. *Of the Christian Sabbath.*—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14th. *Of Civil Government.*—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

15th. *Of the Righteous and the Wicked.*—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

15th. *Of the World to Come.*—That the end of this world is approaching, and that at the last day, Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn seperation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the United Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ, are desirous of a reciprocal union. We therefore propose to maintain the order and rules of an Association, according to the following plan:

We believe that the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other; and that the congregational form of church government should be inviolably preserved, yet being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious counsels, on the principles of reciprocal advantage and christian love; we hold it to be a duty of the Churches to pay respect on these principles, to the advice of the Association.

Art. 1 This Association shall shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union; who, on producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats. The letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches respectively viz: the number in fellowship, the number received by baptism, by letters, by secession, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead, since the last Association; which letters shall be read, and the delegates name enrolled.

Art. 2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of the North River United Baptist Association.

Art. 3. We declare ourselves a Missionary body on the following plan. The Association may appoint an executive committee composed of one member from each church, to be appointed annually; whose duty it shall be, to employ a Missionary or Missionaries to travel and preach the gospel to the destitute in her bounds; and to enlarge their field of labour if necessary; and furthermore it shall be the duty of said committee to appoint a Treasurer to take charge of all moneys paid over by the several churches for the support of the domestic mission, also said treasurer shall

make a correct report at each and every annual session of this body of all the monies received—expenditures, and the surplus on hand, if any; which report shall be affixed to the Minutes of the Association.

Art. 4. The Association thus formed shall choose, by the suffrages of the members present, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

Art. 5. This body shall have no coercive power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights of the Churches in our Union, but shall only be considered an advisory council in all matters respecting their internal concerns.

Art. 6. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union should be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches, which they may look upon to be unsound in principle, or immoral in practice, until they be reclaimed.

Art. 7. To take up no case of any Church in the Union, without the consent of a majority of the Church.

Art. 8. Newly constituted or dismissed Churches, may be received into our Union, by their representatives, chosen as before stated; and the Moderator shall signify the same by giving them the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 9. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by such rules as she may adopt. She may adjourn from day to day, until she shall have finished all the business that may be brought before her.

Art. 10. Every Church thall be entitled to a representation of three members.

Art. 11. To have the Minutes of the Association read, and altered, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises, and have them printed if she thinks proper.

Art. 12. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

Art. 13. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body, in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

Art. 14. To amend the plan or form of government at any time, when a majority of the Union shall deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Rule 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Rule 2. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator.

Rule 3. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject in question, or uses words of a personal reflection.

Rule 4. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

Rule 5. Every case taken up by the Association shall first be decided or withdrawn before auother is offered.

Rule 6. When any question is taken up by the Association, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the question, by yeas and nays, or otherwise The decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

Rule 7. No person shall depart from the service of the Association, without leave of the Moderator.

Rule 8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave obtained.

Rule 9. The appellation of brother shall be used in our addresses one to another.

Rule 10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges as any other member, provided he appoints some other member to fill his seat, while speaking or otherwise, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

Rule 11. Any member violating the above rules, may be reproved, as the Association may think proper, only on the same day the offence shall have occurred.